

Message Text

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71

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 SCEM-02 INT-08

NEA-10 AF-10 IO-14 DRC-01 /160 W

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FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1184

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR SW

SUBJ: SWEDEN'S LARGEST NEWSPAPER EXCORIATES PALME FOR SILENCE
ON MIDEAST MORAL ISSUES

REF: STOCKHOLM 4535

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. STOCKHOLM AFTERNOON PAPER EXPRESSEN, WHICH HAS LARGEST CIRCULATION IN SWEDEN, EXCORIATED PRIME MINISTER PALME IN DECEMBER 20 EDITORIAL FOR LACK OF COURAGE TO SPEAK UP ON MIDEAST MORAL ISSUES. EXPRESSEN DEVOTED ITS COMMENTARY TO WHAT PALME DID NOT SAY IN RADIO-TV ADDRESS TO NATION DECEMBER 19 (REFTEL).

2. "THERE MIGHT HAVE BEEN FEW WORDS ABOUT IRRESPONSIBLE PLAY WITH FUTURE OF ENTIRE WORLD IN WHICH OIL SHEIKHS ARE ENGAGED," EDITORIAL SAID. "OR AT LEAST A DECLARATION THAT SWEDEN'S FOREIGN POLICIES WILL NOT BEND TO BLACKMAIL... IF OLOF PALME HAD NOT, IN OTHER INTERNATIONAL CONNECTIONS, USED UP HIS ENTIRE SUPPLY OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HARSH WORDS IN HIS CONDEMNATIONS, THERE OUGHT TO HAVE BEEN A FEW WORDS STILL AVAILABLE TO CRITICIZE THE RUTHLESS POLICY OF BLACK-

MAIL WHICH ARAB COUNTRIES BEEN EMPLOYING THIS WINTER. BUT NOTHING WAS SAID, AND THAT NATURALLY ARISES FROM FACT OLOF PALME DOESN'T DARE UTTER EVEN MOST CAREFULLY WORDED CRITICISM WHICH COULD BE INTERPRETED AS CRITICISM OF ARAB STATES..."

3. EXPRESSEN SAID ARAB COUNTRIES HAVE FRIGHTENED MOST GOVERNMENTS INTO SILENCE AND PALME IS AMONG THE MOST SILENT. "THIS IS PARTICULARLY REMARKABLE, SINCE HE BECAME KNOWN THE WORLD OVER FOR DARING TO USE STRONG LANGUAGE ABOUT OUTRAGES ON WORLD SCENE," EXPRESSEN CONTINUED. "A YEAR AGO HE SPOKE ABOUT BOMBINGS IN HANOI. WITH CONTEMPT HE REJECTED THOUGHT THAT THREAT OF REPRISALS COULD COMPEL SWEDEN TO SILENCE ABOUT OUTRAGES COMMITTED AGAINST VIETNAM PEOPLE. NOW WE KNOW THE REAL FRANKNESS OF THOSE WORDS. NOW U.S. AND SOVIET UNION KNOW THAT, IF THEY CAN MARSHAL SUFFICIENTLY EFFECTIVE THREATS AGAINST US, THERE ARE NO REASONS FOR THEM TO FEAR ANY PROTESTS FROM SWEDEN, WHATEVER THEY DO ANYWHERE. THE OIL KINGS OF ARAB COUNTRIES HAVE SHOWN THE WAY... NOT SINCE SECOND WORLD WAR HAS A SWEDISH PRIME MINISTER BEEN MORE INDULGENT TOWARD INTERNATIONAL BANDITS THAN OLOF PALME YESTERDAY." END UNCLASSIFIED

4. COMMENT: EXPRESSEN GAVE VOICE TO AN ATTITUDE WHICH IS WIDELY EXPRESSED IN SWEDEN, INCLUDING CYNICAL COMMENTS MADE IN PRIVATE BY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. WISECRACK WIDELY REPEATED IS THAT SWEDEN WILL BE COMPELLED TO BREAK RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL IF TEMPERATURE IN SWEDISH HOMES FALLS BELOW 16 DEGREES (61 F). EXPRESSEN IS OPPOSITION PAPER BUT IT CHEERED PALME ONE YEAR AGO IN HIS COMMENT ON HANOI BOMBING. IT WAS PRESUMABLY MOVED TO SPEAK UP BY ITS PRO-ISRAEL ATTITUDE AND GLARING INCONSISTENCY OF PALME'S LOUD SILENCE.
OLSEN

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